

# NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE, CHARLESTON SC

[HTTP://WWW.ERH.NOAA.GOV/CHS-BOOKMARK IT!](http://www.erh.noaa.gov/chs-bookmark_it/)



# STORM COURIER

LATE SUMMER/EARLY AUTUMN 2004

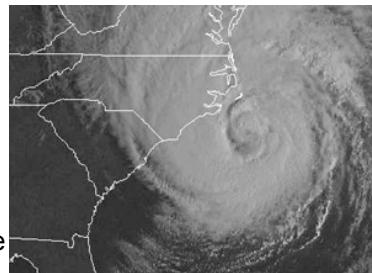


## HURRICANE SEASON 2004-SO FAR

By Robert Bright - Meteorologist

The Atlantic hurricane season officially began June 1st and runs through November 30th. The list of names for this season will be the same list used in 1998 except for Gaston (replaces Georges) and Matthew (replaces Mitch). Five named storms have already formed as of August 15th with three of these becoming hurricanes (Alex, Charley and Danielle). Alex brushed the Outer Banks of NC as a Category 2 storm on August 3rd. Tropical Storm Bonnie made landfall along the FL panhandle and quickly weakened below tropical depression strength before passing through southeast SC producing heavy rainfall and even a F1 tornado in Isle of Palms, SC. Hurricane Charley first made landfall near Charlotte Harbor, FL as a Category 4 storm on August 13th and second as a Category 1 storm near the NC/SC border on August 14th.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) seasonal outlook update on August 10th calls for another busier than normal season with 12-15 tropical storms, 6-8 hurricanes, and 2-4 major (Category 3 or higher) hurricanes. NOAA's prediction was based mainly on warmer than normal sea surface temperatures in the tropical Atlantic and Caribbean Sea as well as favorable climatic patterns, including neutral El Nino Southern Oscillation (ENSO) conditions, which are expected to continue through the peak of the hurricane season (August-October). (cont'd on page 2)



A close brush with Hurricane Isabel-September 2003

## TROPICAL STORM/HURRICANE NAMES FOR 2004:

- *Alex, Bonnie, Charley, Danielle, Earl, Frances, Gaston, Hermine, Ivan, Jeanne, Karl, Lisa, Matthew, Nicole, Otto, Paula, Richard, Shary, Thomas, Virginie and Walter.*

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR NEW MIC

Hi! My name is Michael Emlaw and I am the new Meteorologist-In-Charge (MIC) of the National Weather Service Office in Charleston, South Carolina. I appreciate all that you do to help us issue warnings and statements to save lives and protect property via providing us with timely and accurate severe weather reports. I wanted to tell you a little about myself and hope to meet many of you in the next few years.

I have an undergraduate degree in Meteorology from Parks College (a branch of St. Louis University), and have also obtained a masters degree in Meteorology from Penn State University.

I started my career in the National Weather Service in 1989 and served as an intern at the Oklahoma City and Norman, Oklahoma weather offices for

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS RESOURCES 2

ONLINE WEATHER SCHOOL 3

WIRELESS WEATHER 3

WE NEED YOUR HELP! 4

(Continued on page 2)



## 2004 HURRICANE SEASON-SO FAR (CONTINUED)

*(Continued from page 1)*

Typically, warm ENSO conditions (El Nino) tend to reduce tropical cyclone activity while cold ENSO conditions (La Nina) tend to favor increased numbers of tropical cyclones. For example, the La Nina years of 1997 and 2002 saw below-normal activity during the considerably above-normal 1995-2003 period.

Along with NOAA, Bill Gray's team from Colorado State University is also expecting an above-average season with 13 named storms: 6 tropical storms, 7 hurricanes, 3 of which are forecast to be major hurricanes (category 3 or higher on the Saffir-Simpson scale).

For more information on NOAA's 2004 hurricane outlook, preparedness information, and active storm information, visit the National Hurricane Center's website at <http://www.nhc.noaa.gov>. If a storm approaches coastal South Carolina or Georgia, additional information can be found at our website: <http://wchs.csc.noaa.gov>.

### ***It's A Fact!***

In the years 1900-2000:

The year with the most tropical cyclones (tropical storms & hurricanes):

1933, with 21.

The year with the most hurricanes: 1969, with 12.

The year with the least tropical cyclones (tropical storms & hurricanes): 1890 & 1914 (tie), with only 1!

The year with the least amount of hurricanes:

1907 & 1914 (tie), with 0!

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR NEW MIC (CONTINUED)

*(Continued from page 1)*

almost 3 years. I was then promoted to journeyman forecaster at the Norman office and spent over 2 ½ years in that position. While in Oklahoma, I developed a fond interest in severe thunderstorms and on my own time and initiative went on dozens of storm chasing trips. I was promoted to Warning Coordination Meteorologist at the Blacksburg, Virginia National Weather Service Office in October 1994 and served in that position until arriving in Charleston in late February.

I have conducted dozens of SKYWARN classes during my career, and have done numerous damage surveys. I am interested in providing the best service possible for our customer, partners and the public. I am looking forward to the challenges that lie ahead and working with all of you. Again, I thank you for your interest and dedication to assist us in saving lives and protecting property.

"PREPARATION  
THROUGH  
EDUCATION IS  
LESS COSTLY  
THAN LEARNING  
THROUGH  
TRAGEDY" MAX  
MAYFIELD,  
DIRECTOR,  
NATIONAL  
HURRICANE  
CENTER

## HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS RESOURCES

By Hal Austin-Forecaster

It's been a busy hurricane season so far, with more to come! To help you prepare for the next Bonnie or Charley, here are some excellent online hurricane resources to help you. They're packed with valuable information that could save your life and property. Check them out today, and recommend them to your family and friends!

When storms are active in the Atlantic, your premier information source is the National Hurricane Center at [www.nhc.noaa.gov](http://www.nhc.noaa.gov). The latest advisories (public and marine), strike probabilities, satellite imagery, tracking charts and

*(Continued on page 3)*

## ONLINE WEATHER SCHOOL

If you'd like to educate yourself about the "how's and why's" of meteorology, we've got the perfect website for you! Debuting in February of 2003, *Jetstream* is the National Weather Service's online weather school. It's the perfect resource for educators, emergency managers, or anyone interested in learning about weather. Arranged by topic, you can learn about any aspect of weather you're interested in. There's a set of review questions at the end of each section too, so you can check what you've learned. Stop by today and check it out! The address is: [www.srh.noaa.gov/jetstream](http://www.srh.noaa.gov/jetstream).



This funnel cloud formed over Charleston Harbor on July 1st. It reached 3/4 of the way to the ground. If you ever see one of these, please call us!

## PREPAREDNESS RESOURCES (CONTINUED)

so much more.

To learn how to prepare for the storm, NOAA's hurricane preparedness page is the place to go. Their address is: [www.nhc.noaa.gov/HAW2/english/intro.shtml](http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/HAW2/english/intro.shtml).

Right here at home your #1 source for weather in the South Carolina Lowcountry and adjacent southeast Georgia is our website at <http://wchs.csc.noaa.gov>. The latest local forecast (just click on your county), up-to-the-minute radar displays, marine forecasts and lots more.

Hurricane evacuation routes for South Carolina are at [www.sctraffic.org/evacroutes.html](http://www.sctraffic.org/evacroutes.html), and for Georgia at [www.georgia-navigiator.com/hurricane/atlanticMap.shtml](http://www.georgia-navigiator.com/hurricane/atlanticMap.shtml).

Lastly, some other tropical websites of interest include the NOAA Hurricane Page at <http://hurricanes.noaa.gov>. Ever wonder what it's like to fly into a hurricane? Visit the homepage of the 53<sup>rd</sup> Weather Reconnaissance Squadron, a.k.a. the Hurricane Hunters at <http://hurricanehunters.com>. All National Weather Service booklets, brochures and pamphlets are online, some in full

## WEATHER ON THE WIRELESS

By Hal Austin-Forecaster

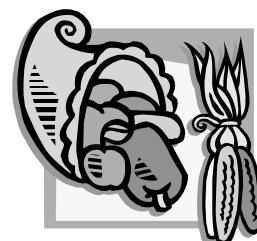
The National Weather Service is proud to announce the availability of anywhere/anytime forecasts! Just by entering your city/state or zip code, you can receive the latest forecast from your local NWS office using your wireless device. All you need is a wireless device that can surf the Internet along with a wireless Internet service provider. You can choose from a "quick glance" forecast consisting of a word or two and the forecast temperature for the next 36 hours, the complete text of the 7-day forecast, and the latest Doppler radar imagery. Use either one of these URLs to access the data: [mobile.srh.noaa.gov](http://mobile.srh.noaa.gov) or [mobile.srh.weather.gov](http://mobile.srh.weather.gov).

### Did You Know...?

Most intense hurricane recorded in the Atlantic: the "Labor Day Hurricane" of 1935. It was a category 5, with a central pressure of 892 mb (26.35" of Hg).

Most expensive US hurricane: Andrew in 1992. A category 5 storm, it did \$35 billion dollars in damage.

Deadliest hurricane to hit the US: 1900 (no name). A category 4 storm, it killed 8000+ people in Galveston TX.



*Autumn is not that far away! Fall begins on September 22nd at 12:30 pm EDT.*



## NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE, CHARLESTON SC

5777 South Aviation Avenue  
Charleston, SC 29406-6162

Phone: (843) 744-0303

Fax: (843) 747-5405

<http://wchs.csc.noaa.gov>

**NOAA AND THE  
NATIONAL WEATHER  
SERVICE...WORKING  
TOGETHER TO SAVE LIVES!**

MAILING ADDRESS LINE 1

MAILING ADDRESS LINE 2

MAILING ADDRESS LINE 3

MAILING ADDRESS LINE 4

MAILING ADDRESS LINE 5

## WE NEED YOUR HELP!

By Hal Austin-Forecaster

There are two areas where we very much need your help!

1). Recently here at NWS Charleston we've performed a "scrubdown" of our spotter database, deleting names, addresses and phone numbers of spotters that were found to have disconnected phones, deceased, etc. On a related note, each time we publish and mail out a newsletter, many are returned to us with "undeliverable" stamped on them. Would you please help us? If ever you change addresses or home/work phone numbers, *let us know!* It's important we have correct contact information for you. Contact us one of three ways: drop us a line by "snail mail" (our address is next to the mailing label above), give us a call at 744-0303 (locally) or 1-800-897-0823 (elsewhere), or send an e-mail to [stephen.wilkinson@noaa.gov](mailto:stephen.wilkinson@noaa.gov). Thank you!

2). Whenever severe weather strikes, remember, as a trained weather spotter *we want to hear from you!* If you observe trees and/or power lines down, hail (any size), flooding (water running across the road, ditches overflowing, creeks/streams out of their banks), funnel clouds or waterspouts, pick up the phone and call us. Your valuable reports help us confirm what we're "seeing" on the radar, and could make a life-or-death difference for the people in the next town or in the next county about to be hit by that severe storm that just went over your house. *When in doubt, please call us!*



Phone contact numbers:

Charleston tri-county area:  
**744-0303**

Toll-free 24/7:  
**1-800-897-0823**

To call and leave a severe weather report:  
**1-888-383-2024 DURING SEVERE WEATHER ONLY**  
*All other times, please use either of the two numbers listed above.*